Name of Assembly: **United Apostolic Church**

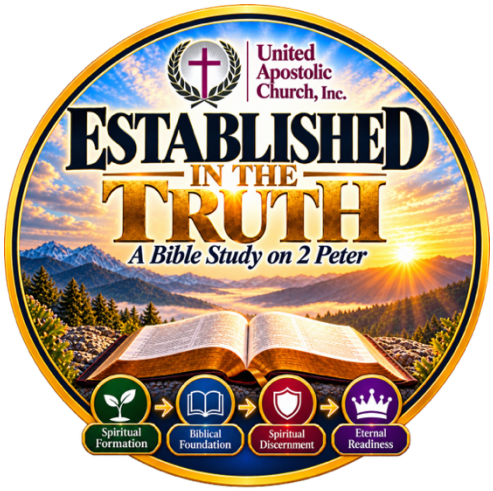
Type of service: **Bible Study**

Date: **November 3 & 10, 2026**

Series Topic: **"Established in the Truth"**

Lesson 5: **"Diligent Growth and a Fruitful Life"**

Text: **2 Peter 1:5-11**



"[5] And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; [6] And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to *patience godliness;* [7] *And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.* [8] *For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* [9] *But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.* [10] *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:* [11] *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

INTRODUCTION

This series, **Established in the Truth**, is a study through **2 Peter** designed to strengthen believers in four critical areas: **spiritual formation**, **biblical foundation**, **spiritual discernment**, and **eternal readiness**.

As we continue this series, we are reminded that God has provided what we need for life and godliness. His grace makes spiritual growth possible, and we must respond with diligence and obedience.

In Lesson 4, we focused on **faith**, **virtue**, and **knowledge**. Faith trusts God, virtue chooses what is right, and knowledge teaches us how God wants us to live.

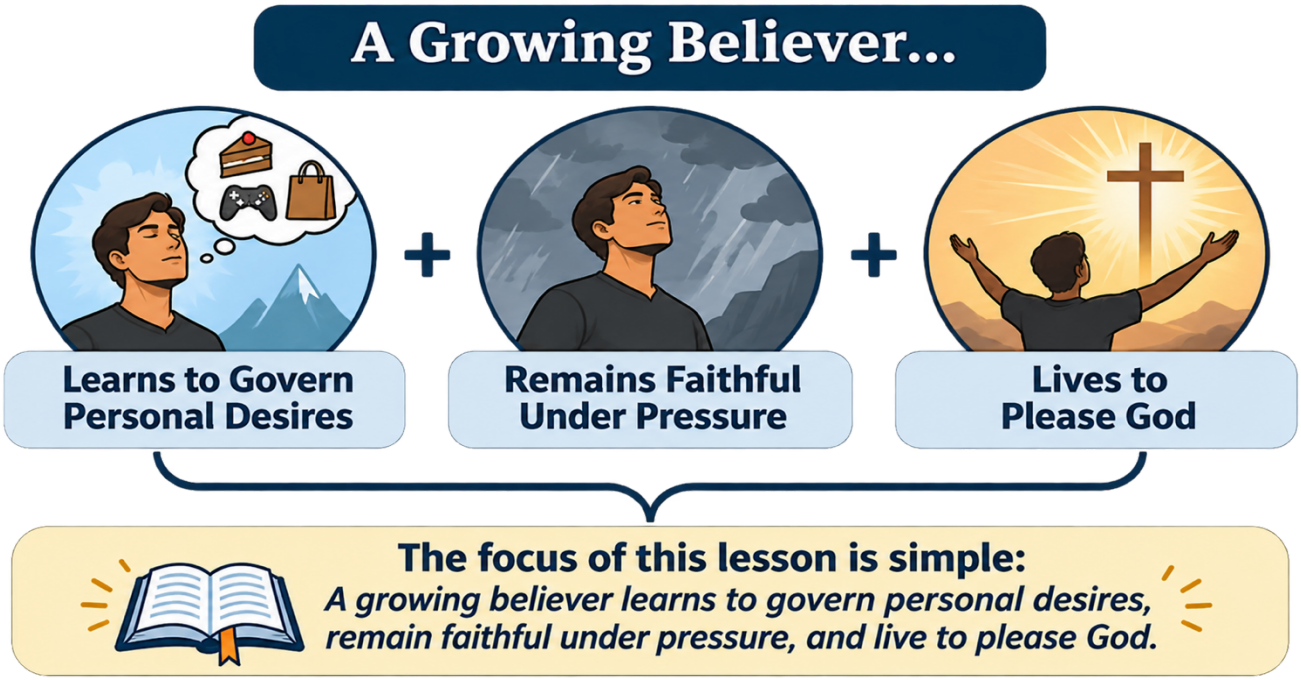
Knowing what is right must affect how we respond when our desires are strong, our circumstances are difficult, or our obedience is tested. This brings us to **temperance**, **patience**, and **godliness**.

GROWING IN WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US

"[5] And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; [6] And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; [7] And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

Peter does not present these qualities as optional extras for a few mature believers. They should be developing in every Christian. We do not earn salvation by adding them; we cultivate them because we have responded to God's grace and desire to reflect His character.

These qualities belong together. We do not finish developing one before beginning another. As we continue walking with God, each should become more evident in our lives.



In this lesson, we will focus on the following three characteristics:

⇒ **Temperance**: self-control; bringing our desires, emotions, words, and actions under God's direction.

⇒ **Patience:** Steadfast endurance; continuing to trust and obey God through difficulty and delay.

⇒ **Godliness:** Reverence for God that shapes our choices and conduct in everyday life.

1. TEMPERANCE - LEARNING SELF-CONTROL

Knowledge teaches us what is right, but temperance helps us act on that knowledge. A person may know that harsh words are wrong yet still speak harshly in anger. Spiritual growth should be evident in how we respond when we are tempted to act on impulse.

Temperance means our appetites, feelings, and desires do not have the final say. We bring them under the authority of Jesus Christ. We cannot prevent every feeling from arising, but we are responsible for how we respond.

"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" - Proverbs 25:28. A city without walls was vulnerable to danger. In the same way, a lack of self-control leaves us vulnerable to words, habits, and decisions that harm our lives and our Christian witness.

Temperance may be seen when we:

- ⇒ Pause before speaking when we are angry.
- ⇒ Refuse entertainment or desires that lead us toward sin.
- ⇒ Set wise limits on spending, eating, and screen time.
- ⇒ Accept correction without immediately defending ourselves.

Self-control is among the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We depend on the Holy Ghost as we practice obedience.

Ask: "Am I allowing this desire or emotion to govern me?"

2. PATIENCE - REMAINING FAITHFUL UNDER PRESSURE

Temperance helps us govern our response in the moment. Patience helps us continue doing what is right when the difficulty does not quickly pass. In this passage, patience carries the thought of **steadfast endurance.**
Patience is more than waiting quietly. It is continuing to trust God, obey His Word, and fulfill our responsibilities while we wait. A delayed answer does not give us permission to abandon obedience.

"Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:3-4 (KJV)

James connects tested faith with endurance and maturity. Trials are painful, but God can use them to develop steadfastness as we continue trusting Him. Mature faith does not depend on immediate relief.

Patience may be seen when we:

⇒ Continue praying when an answer has not yet come.

⇒ Remain faithful when obedience is inconvenient.

⇒ Respond graciously while others are still growing.

⇒ Refuse sinful shortcuts to obtain a desired result.

Joseph remained faithful during unjust suffering; his conduct in Potiphar's house and prison gives us an example to consider (Genesis 39).





3. GODLINESS - LIVING TO PLEASE GOD

Godliness is reverence for God expressed in daily living. It is more than appearing religious or knowing how to behave during a service. A godly person seeks to honor Jesus Christ in both public and private.

Godliness gives direction to our self-control and endurance. We are not simply trying to appear disciplined or prove that we can withstand hardship. **Our desire is to please the Lord.**

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" - Titus 2:11-12. God's grace teaches us to reject sin and to live differently now. Holiness should shape our speech, relationships, habits, and choices. Our conduct should align with our confession of faith.

Godliness may be seen when we:

- ⇒ Maintain prayer and attention to God's Word.
- ⇒ Practice honesty when no one is watching.
- ⇒ Treat family members with the care we show at church.
- ⇒ Reject compromise, even when others approve of it.

Daniel continued praying when faithfulness became costly (Daniel 6:10). His devotion was an established practice.

Ask: "Does this choice honor God and reflect my relationship with Him?"







HOW THEY CONNECT

⇒ **Temperance** governs our desires and responses.

⇒ **Patience** keeps us faithful through difficulty and delay.

⇒ **Godliness** directs our lives toward pleasing God.

Together, they show that spiritual maturity affects how we respond, how we persevere, and whom we seek to please. Peter says that when these qualities are present and increasing, they keep us from being barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:8).

DISCUSSION SCENARIO

A coworker repeatedly speaks to you disrespectfully. You have tried to respond kindly, but the behavior continues. Today, the coworker embarrasses you in front of others. You feel angry and want to answer harshly. A friend suggests that you retaliate so the person will stop.

Discuss:

⇒ **Temperance:** What should you do before responding? Which words or actions should you refuse?

⇒ **Patience:** How can you remain faithful if the situation does not improve immediately?

⇒ **Godliness:** What response would honor Jesus and preserve your Christian witness?

A faithful response may include pausing, praying, speaking respectfully, and seeking appropriate help from a supervisor. Patience can include taking wise action. **We can address wrongdoing while maintaining a Christlike spirit.**







THIS WEEK'S APPLICATION

This week, look for opportunities to practice temperance, patience, and godliness together in real-life situations.

1. **Practice Temperance**
   Identify one area where you tend to act on impulse. Before responding, pause and pray.

2. **Practice Patience**
   Identify one situation in which you are becoming weary. Ask: "What does faithfulness require of me today?" Continue in the right action, even if the outcome has not changed.

3. **Practice Godliness**
   Consider whether your private conduct agrees with your public confession. Ask: "Does this honor Jesus?" Make one specific change in your speech, habits, relationships, or devotional life.

4. **Bring Them Together**
   Record one situation in which you controlled your response, continued doing what was right, and consciously sought to please God.

PERSONAL ACTIVITY

An area where I need greater self-control:

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.....

A situation in which I need steadfast endurance:

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A daily choice that needs to reflect greater godliness:

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My specific step of obedience this week:

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Remember: God provides what we need, and we must diligently grow in what He has given us.

NOTES